II. *An Account of the firſt Decade of a Book, Intituled,* Johannis Martyn Hiſtoria Plantarum rariorum. *Printed at* London ; *by* Richard Reily, 1728. *by Mr.* Rand, *F. R. S.*

MR. *Martyn* in this Work has had the Plants, of their natural Bigneſs, exactly deſigned after the Life, and with great Accuracy and Succeſs printed in their proper Colours. This curious Invention was never more aptly applied, though I think this is the firſt time it has been uſed in *Botany*. By this Means, without a long tedious Deſcription, a Plant may be known by meer Inſpection. However, that nothing may be wanting, the Author has thought fit to give ſhort Deſcriptions, inſiſting more particularly on thoſe minute Parts which cannot be ſo clearly expreſſed by Sculpture; and has added, where they could be obtain'd, ſome Account of their Uſes, *&c.*

The Plant in the firſt Table he calls *Jalapa Officinarum.*

The *Jalap* Root has been in common Uſe above a hundred Years; yet the Plant it ſelf wholly unknown to us in *Europe* till P. *Plumier* and M. *Lignon*, who had both paſſed a conſiderable Time in *America* in Botanical Diſquiſitions, at their Return, ſeverally aſſured Mr. *Tournefort*, that it was a Species of the Plant commonly known by the Name of *Marvel* of *Peru*; who thereupon thought fit to make *Jalapa* the Name of the Genus, and diſtinguiſh that of the Shops by the Seeds being more rugoſe than thoſe of the common.

Tab. 2.

Tab. 2. Shews the *Geranium Africanum, Arboreſcens, Malvæ folio, lucido; flore elegantiſſimo Kermeſino Domini van Leur. Boerh. Ind. alt.* 262.

3. *Geranium Chium, vernum; Caryophyllatæ folio T. Cor.* 20.

4. *Brunella Caroliniana, magno flore, dilutè cæruleo, internodiis prælongis, Phil. Tranſ.* No. 395. Pag. 125.

5. *Amaranthus Sinenſis foliis variis; paniculâ eleganter plumoſo.*

6. *Amaranthus ſpicâ albeſcente habitiore.*

7. *Parietaria Orientalis, Polygoni folio caneſcente T. Cor.* 38.

8. *Niruri Barbadenſe, folio Ovali ſubtus glauco, pediculis florum breviſsimis, Phil. Tranſ.* No. 399. Pag. 295.

This is of the ſame Genus with that called *Niruri, Hort. Malab.* Tom. x. and there deſcribed, p. 53. Ours is a much ſmaller Plant, the Leaves are leſs, and grow much cloſer on the Stalks, and the Pedicle of each Flower by two thirds ſhorter.

9. *Lychnidea Caroliniana floribus Umbellatim diſpoſitis, foliis lucidis craſsis.* This Plant is ſomething like *Lychnidea Virginiana Holoſtei ampliore folio, floribus umbellatis purpureis Phil. Tranſ.* No. 395. Pag. 126. but the Leaves are much larger, thicker, and of a deep ſhining green Colour.

10. *Aloe Africana, foliis planis, conjugatis, carinatis verrucoſis, caule & flore Corallii colore Boerh. Ind. alt.* p. 2. Pag. 131.

The ingenious Author propoſes, in the Sequel of this Work, to give an Account of new Plants only, or at leaſt ſuch as have not been well figured by others: If he proceeds with the ſame Exactneſs, as I don't doubt he will, the Work very well deſerves Encouragement; for of Plants thus figured and deſcribed, there can be no future Doubts.

Happy had it been for us, had the Antients left ſuch Types or Deſcriptions of thoſe they recommended as conſiderable for their Uſe in Medicine. This would have ſaved the Learned World much Labour and Study in an Enquiry, which 'tis to be feared, for want of ſuch Helps, will prove unſucceſsful.

III. *An Attempt to ſolve the Phænomenon of the Riſe of Vapours, Formation of Clouds and Deſcent of Rain. In a Letter from Dr.* J. T. Deſaguliers, *L. L. D. F. R. S. to Dr.* Rutty, *R. S. Secr.*

SIR,

THE Reaſon of my writing upon a Subject which has been ſo often treated of, is, that none of the Accounts hitherto given of this *Phænomenon* (at leaſt that I have met with) ſeem to me ſufficient to ſolve all the Circumſtances of it.

Dr. *Niewentyt* and ſome others ſay — That Particles of Fire ſeparated from the Sun-Beams, by adhering to Particles of Water, make up *Moleculæ*, or ſmall Bodies ſpecifically lighter than Air, which therefore, by hydroſtatical Laws, muſt riſe and form Clouds that remain ſuſpended when they are riſen up to ſuch an Height